

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

President: Bob Comack N9IMP
V. Pres: Randy Shafe K9ILC
Secretary: Bill Brinkmann KA9QW
Treasurer: Mac McCarty N99K

WB9YIG/R
146.835

EDOMEX BBS ON 144.930

The Spark-Gap

JANUARY 1993

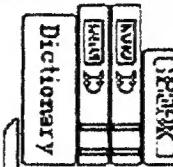
NEW NOVICE CLASS SCHEDULE

The Club will again sponsor a novice class this year in the EOC meeting room. The class will start on February 8th and will conclude on March 31st. Most classes will meet on Mondays with three exceptions: Feb. 24 instead of Feb 22, March 3 instead of March 1, and March 31 instead of March 29. Dave Wendt KA9OOH and Mac N99K will be in charge of the class. All club members are invited to attend and participate in any of these classes. Dave especially likes to have some hams present at the first meeting. Present plans include testing for both Novice and Tech licenses. Club members are encouraged to spread the word about these classes. (The club can acquire new members from this source.)

HONORS FOR HOMER

From the QIN "Key": Homer WB9CZ, had been off the air for quite a bit due to rig problems. He's back now and going strong! For November, Homer hit the all-time high for QNI. Out of 87 possible CW traffic nets in Indiana, he was present and accounted for during 83 of them! Who can match that record?

Homer also sent a copy of the Spark-Gap to the "Key" which was highlighted in their October publication. Thanks Homer!



For Your Information

There is a growing selection of training materials available to members of the club. If you are intending to upgrade some of these items might be of use to you:

License study books

Audio and Video tapes for Tech-Adv.

Video tapes about Ham Radio

Actual tests for all classes

Members are encouraged to take advantage of these donated materials! If interested you can check with N99K after the meeting.

NEW CALL SIGNS

Mike Holland KF9LH is now AA9FP

Ralph Talbott KB9HRV is now N9RNI

USE OF 911

Members are reminded that the use of 911 on autopatch is not the same as 911 on the telephone! 911 on the patch gets you the Sheriff's dispatch only!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY TESTING OPPORTUNITIES

Jan 20 Indianapolis AA9BO 317-251-6000

Feb 6 Bloomington K9DIY 812-332-0074

Feb 6 Muncie W9JUJ 317-288-0481

PACKET NOW IN THE E. O. C.

The Packet BBS is now operational in the club room at the EOC. Operating under the call sign AA9FP, the unit will be used

for official RACES communications and as an information and communications hub for members of the club.

The station is on 144.930 and operated by Bob WB5VZT, RACES officer. Details about the use of the station will be available at the RACES meeting on January 11th and at the next club meeting.

DECEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

At the December club meeting Jabran N9KZA gave a well organized presentation on what hams should do when confronted with an emergency situation unexpectedly. He emphasized the importance of knowing what immediate-response teams to inform and what information the teams would need to know. Thanks, Jabran. Great program!

WHITELAND TOWER DONATED

The MARC tower in Whiteland has now been legally donated to the city of Whiteland. Some further work on the tower will be completed by our club when weather permits.

JOHNSON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RACES COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Authority: (1) The federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) (2) The Indiana State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) (3) The Johnson County Emergency Management Agency (JCEMA) (4) The Federal Communication Commission (FCC).

Objective: The main objective of this plan is to provide communications as required by the Director of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency and the Official Branches of the Government of Johnson County. To provide fixed, mobile, and portable communications in the areas where the normal mode of communications has been disrupted, damaged, or has failed

due to natural disasters, fire, accidents, sabotage, or war. To provide this service when authorized, with a contingency force of licensed amateur radio operators, on a rotational basis, dependent upon the resources and manpower available.

Organization: The Midstate Amateur Radio Club membership which has volunteered to be enrolled and selected as a member of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency RACES in accordance with the qualification requirements of this plan. The organization hereas known as the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency RACES.

Membership requirements: (1) Must be a FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator. (2) Must be 18 years old or older. (3) Equipment standards must be in accordance with FCC requirements. (4) Approved by the Director of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency. (5) Security check will be conducted and certified. (6) Must be administered the Loyalty Oath by the Director of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency. (7) Continual Membership is approved/disapproved dependent upon the results of the one (1) year probational period.

Plan activation: This plan can only be activated by the Director of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency or his appointed representative. This plan, when properly activated, will be under the direction of the Director of JCEMA, the JCEMA RACES, and the Net Control Operator. The activities of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency RACES will be governed by this plan.

Tievoli Returns

Under threatening rain clouds the crew of the Tievoli entered Burnt Store Harbour near Punta Gorda, Florida and stepped onto American soil for the first time since October 3rd 1992. Ralph Talbott and his crew finished the 3500 mile trek across the Atlantic at 12:35 PM saturday January 8th. Talbott and crew spent four months participating in America 500 following in the wake of Christopher Columbus. When Ralph left last year he was licensed as KB9HRV. Ralph upgraded to the general class before he left in October. His new call sign, N9RNI, came as he was finishing the last leg of the trip to San Salvadore.

The Tievoli set sail in America 500 last October with two other Mid-State ARC club members as crew. Jack Parker NT9J and Eric Sluder, KB9BGS traveled over 1000 miles from Puerto Sherry, Spain to Las Palma in the Canary Islands. The Tievoli survived several storms and heavy seas during the course of the trip. The most serious damage came in Georgetown when another boat lost control at the dock and ran its anchor through one of the side windows of the pilot house. No injuries were reported.

A large contingency of teachers, parents and students from East Elementary School near Pendleton flew to Florida to welcome the tired crew back home. Jack, NT9J was on hand for the welcoming ceremony. The entire school has followed the progress of the Tievoli via ham radio thanks to the Madison County Amateur Radio Club. Art Franks, KA9CCF spearheaded the local operation by making daily contact with Ralph on the Maritime Mobile Net. Ralph said he fulfilled a life-long dream by sailing across the Atlantic. He now looks

forward to returning to land-locked Indiana in February, 73, de NT9J



THE SWAP SWAMP



BUY-SELL OR SWAP

FOR SALE:

65 Mobile radios. All are Midland 6 mtr FM 100 Watt with 80 pre-programed channels. \$165.00 each. If interested call Joe, KA9ZPA at 862-3394 or Larry KB9FVT.

RACES MEETING

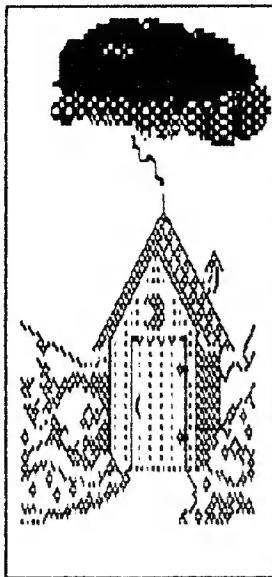
On Monday, January 11th an organizational meeting for RACES was held in the EOC meeting room. Bob DeSpain WB5VZT discussed plans for reorganizing the local group. WB5VZT will be the RACES Officer as administrator, Mike AA9FP will be in charge of training, and Bill KA92MU will take care of operations. Sam Williams, Director of Emergency Management was present and gave a brief talk to the group.

Present plans call for updating the present membership list and issuing new identification badges to each member. All members of RACES are requested to check with WB5VZT as soon as possible to see that they are included in the list so they can receive their badges. Applications for new membership will be available at the next club meeting this saturday.

MEETING AGENDA

The program for the club meeting this saturday will be a presentation by Jeff N1EWO about Packet Radio. With an increasing interest in this Amateur mode this should be an informative program!

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR
CLUB DUES FOR
1993?**



LIGHTNING AND YOU!

The lightning rod as created by Ben Franklin and used in rural areas of America for years was not designed or intended to protect a house from being struck by lightning, but to provide a sharp point to gather the accumulated charge building up PRIOR to a lightning strike and bleed it off to the ground. If the charge is bled to ground as fast as it builds the lightning strike can not occur. (A good reason for grounding your ham equipment.)

You are probably safe from lightning inside your car since the rubber tires provide a shielding from the ground. (Don't leave your car however if powerlines happen to fall across it. Wait until lines are removed!) Many airplanes in flight have been hit by lightning, but since the lightning is a static type of discharge, it seldom harms passengers or crew.

In the USA lightning kills more people each year than hurricanes or tornadoes. More than 1000 are injured and property damage exceeds one million dollars yearly.

Lightning is a gigantic spark of electricity, and thunder is the sudden expansion of the air due to the great heat caused by the strike. The sound of the thunder may come over a period of seconds, since one end of the flash may be thousands of feet from the other. The

distance in miles to a lightning stroke can be estimated by counting the number of seconds between the flash and the sound and dividing by five.

If you feel the electrical charge (your hair stands on end, or your skin tingles, or you get a battery taste in the glands of your throat) you are building up a charge of static electricity and are a good target for a strike! DROP TO THE GROUND IMMEDIATELY!

WEATHER FACTS

Lightning is the electrical discharge between positive and negative charges developed as a result of a thunderstorm. Thunder is the noise produced by the explosive expansion of the air heated by lightning. Thunderstorms develop areas of positive and negative charges within the cumulonimbus cloud. The lighter negative charges tend to be carried toward the top of the cloud, while the heavier positive charges will accumulate in the lower portions of the storm, carried there by the great rain shaft near the center. When the difference between these positive and negative charges is sufficient to overcome the resistance of air between them, a lightning stroke results. The discharge is from the positive to the negative; consequently the first strokes are within the cloud. About 65% of all discharges are within the cloud (cloud to cloud.) Lightning from the cloud to the ground usually occurs in the leading edge of the storm.

WEATHER FACTS will be featured in each issue of the SPARK-GAP through the tornado season. Your comments or contributions will be appreciated!



HAVE YOU JOINED RACES?

(Contact WB5VZT, AA9F, or KA92MU)